

FEED THE FUTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: FY2015 PROGRESS

Through Feed the Future, the President's global hunger and food security initiative, the U.S. Government is contributing to significant progress against hunger and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Founded on the U.S. Government's call to global leaders during the 2009 G-8 L'Aquila Summit to increase investments in agriculture, Feed the Future prioritizes agricultural development as the key to reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition. Feed the Future creates opportunities for smallholder farmers and others engaged in the agricultural value chain to improve yields and access markets. The initiative concentrates efforts in 19 focus countries, three of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean, while also supporting a number of aligned programs in countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. These efforts include support for innovative and climate-smart agricultural approaches to confront ongoing and future challenges, and help communities become more resilient and better able to respond to emergencies.



Photo credit: Geovin Morales

Approach

In parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, food insecurity and poor nutrition pose significant obstacles to economic growth and social development. But the region has made progress in improving food security and nutrition, in part due to Feed the Future, which leverages the political commitments of focus countries to fight hunger and poverty.

Feed the Future is working with the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti to develop agricultural investment plans that increase government engagement and local accountability. Working with host country governments and local partners, Feed the Future has made key investments to increase agriculture-led growth, improve the nutrition of women and children, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

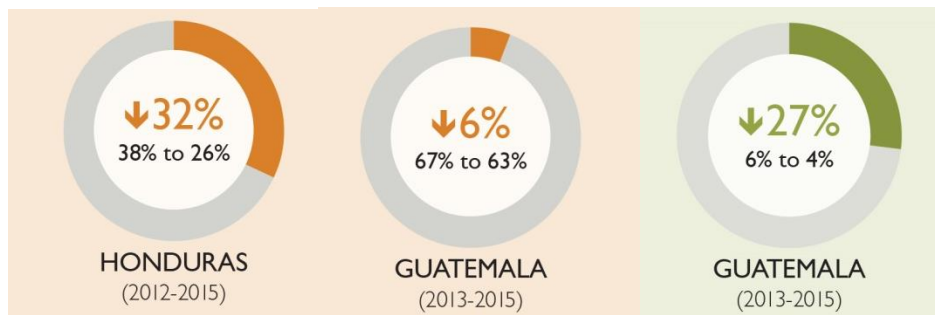
Contributing to Impact

The Feed the Future model is proving itself in country after country, increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and contributing to notable drops in poverty and childhood stunting in many of the places where it works. In FY2015 alone, Feed the Future investments in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Helped more than **400,000 rural households** benefit directly from Feed the Future support;
- Spurred more than **\$26.5 million (USD)** in new sales on the continent;
- Brought small-scale entrepreneurs increased income opportunities through more than **\$47 million (USD)** in new agricultural and rural loans;
- Helped leverage more than **\$4 million (USD)** in new private sector investment in the agriculture sector;
- Reached more than **850,000 children** with nutrition help.

New data suggest that Feed the Future, combined with host-country and other global efforts, is contributing to reductions in both poverty and childhood stunting, which can rob children of their ability to lead healthy and productive lives. In areas where Feed the Future works:

The prevalence of child stunting is falling, and poverty is on the decline.



In Latin American and Caribbean countries supported by Feed the Future, local capacity for lasting food security, economic growth and good nutrition continues to grow stronger.

Responding to El Niño in Honduras

In rural Honduras, the challenge of developing income-generating production systems for farmers is made more difficult by extreme climatic events such as El Niño. Smallholder farmers are especially susceptible to these climate-related crop losses.

In 2015, Honduras struggled to adjust to the strongest El Niño drought in 30 years. Maize and bean harvests dropped sharply, and smallholders, many of whom depend on crop production and agricultural labor for their livelihoods, were hit particularly hard. At the end of 2015, an estimated 600,000 Hondurans faced food insecurity.

El Niño has challenged Feed the Future to find both short- and medium-term solutions and make program adjustments that build resilience, including better management and conservation of water resources. To increase incomes, Feed the Future encouraged Honduran farmers to diversify from growing only rain-fed staple crops to begin producing higher-value vegetables that could be easily irrigated. These irrigation systems are now being scaled up, always paired with interventions to strengthen community management of local water supplies. As a result, farmers are faring better, in large part due to technical assistance that has led to better crop selection, increased incomes and an improved ability to cope with shocks. Feed the Future projects also targeted maize farmers who were not using irrigation, teaching them how to adapt cultivation practices to drought conditions.

Looking Forward

Feed the Future efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean will continue to focus on connecting smallholders to markets, improving the nutritional status of women and children, and continuing to build resilience to stresses such as climate change and crop pests and diseases like coffee leaf rust.

By making it possible for farmers and food producers to have more choices on how and what to farm as well as access to more markets and business opportunities, Feed the Future will ensure that families not only have enough food to feed themselves, but can capitalize on the economic engine of agriculture to improve nutrition, increase livelihoods, and secure a better future.